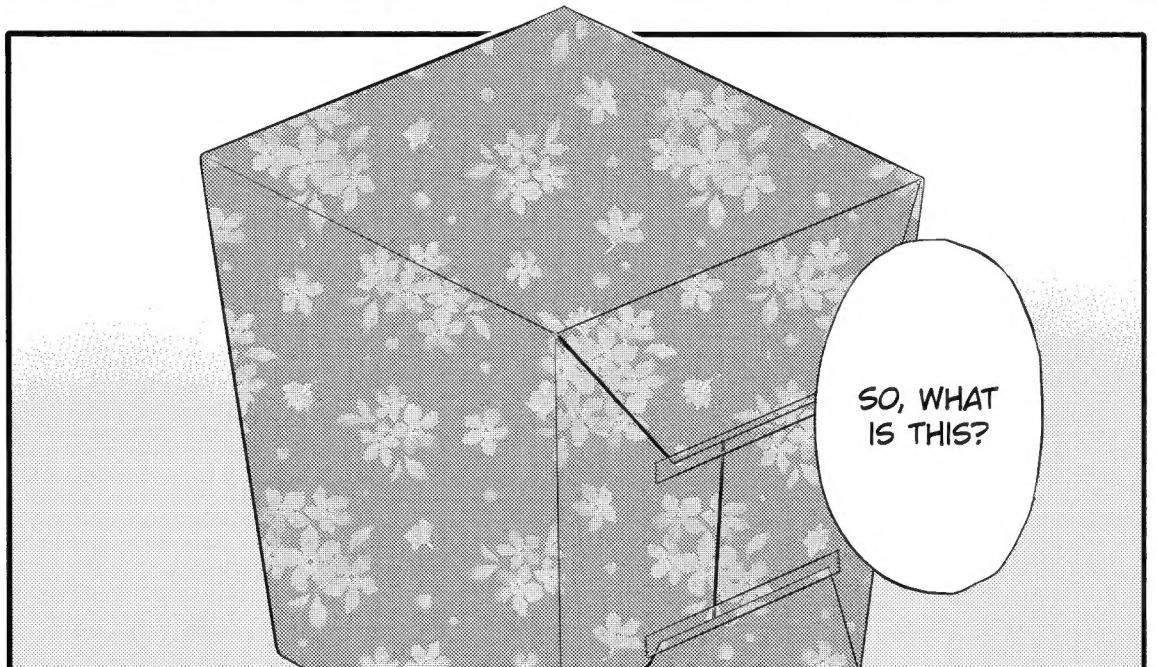
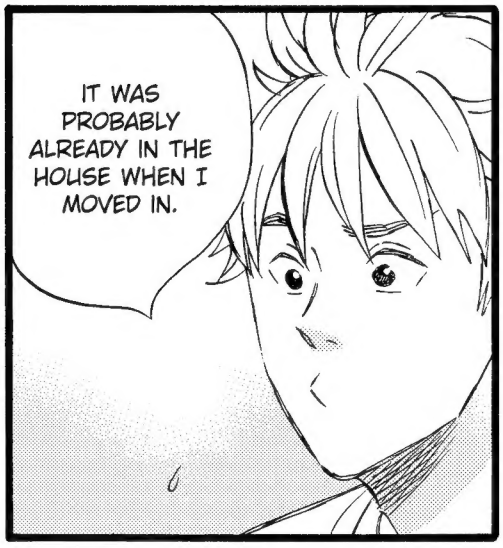
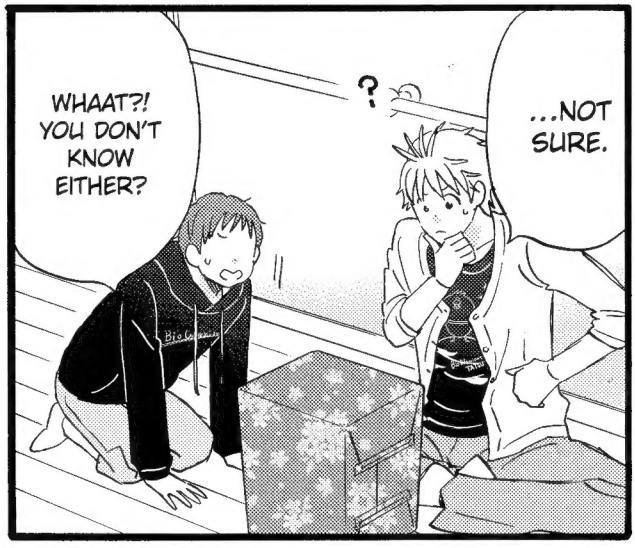
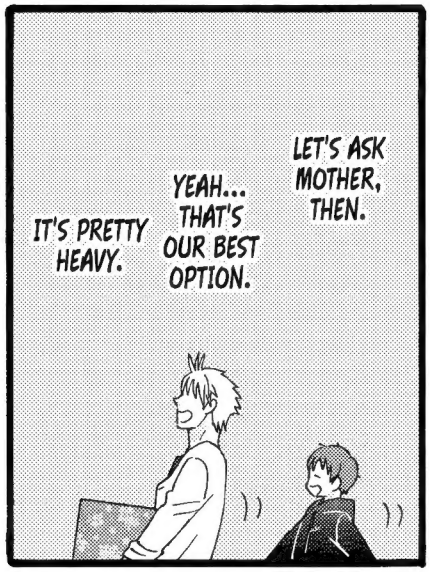
HUH?

JUST NOW, WHEN I WAS CLEANING UP THE STOREROOM...
HM? WHAT'S UP?
VRRR...
HEY, FATHER!

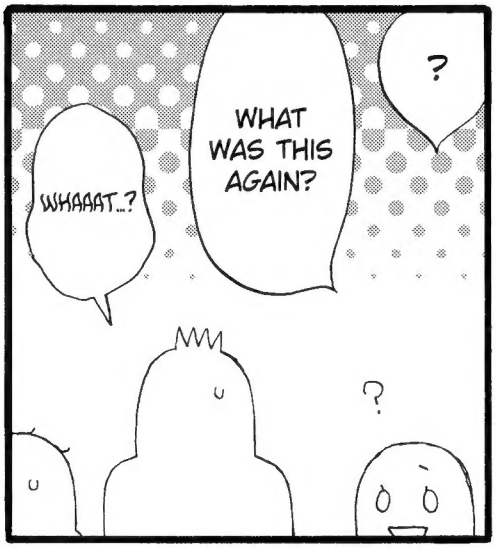

SO, WHAT IS THIS?

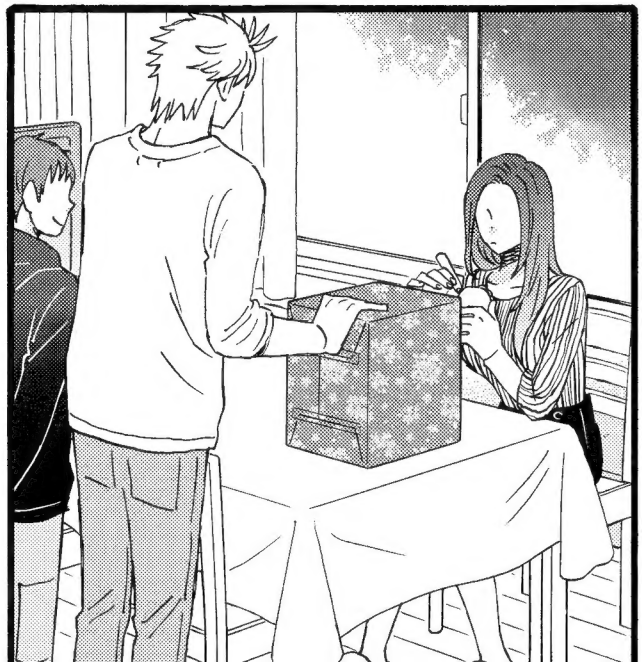

IT WAS PROBABLY ALREADY IN THE HOUSE WHEN I MOVED IN.


WHAAT?! YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER?
?
...NOT SURE.

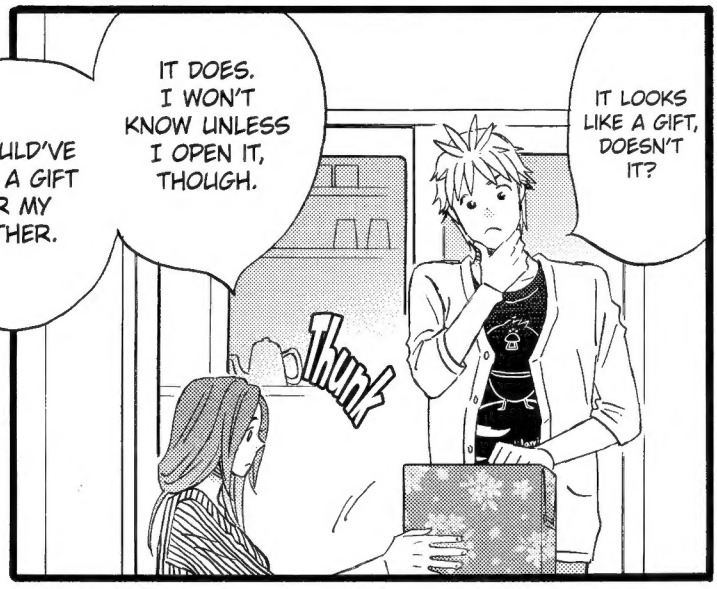

IT'S PRETTY HEAVY.
YEAH... THAT'S OUR BEST OPTION.
LET'S ASK MOTHER, THEN.

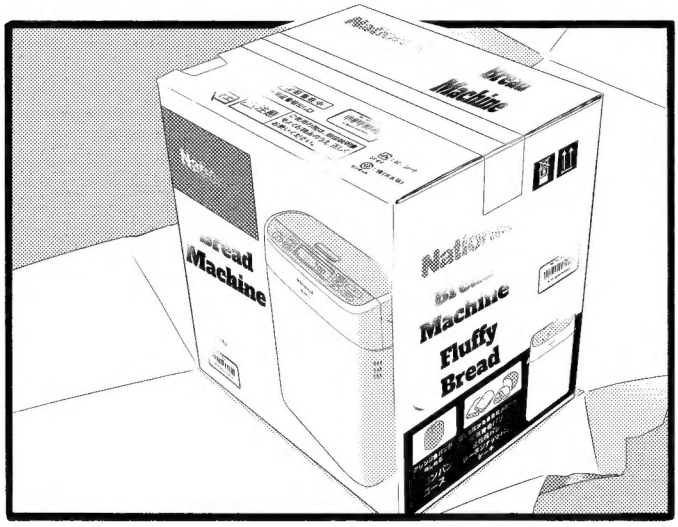
I PROBABLY SET IT ASIDE BECAUSE I WANTED TO ASK AI-SAN ABOUT IT...
BEFORE GETTING RID OF IT.
WHEN I WAS CLEANING, I THREW OUT MOST OF THE STUFF THAT SEEMED TO BE TRASH, BUT...
THIS IS WRAPPED IN SOME SORT OF SPECIAL PAPER, AND KINDA LOOKS LIKE A GIFT...


WHAAAT...?
WHAT WAS THIS AGAIN?
?
?

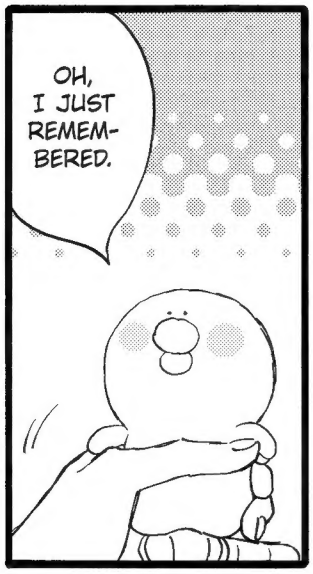


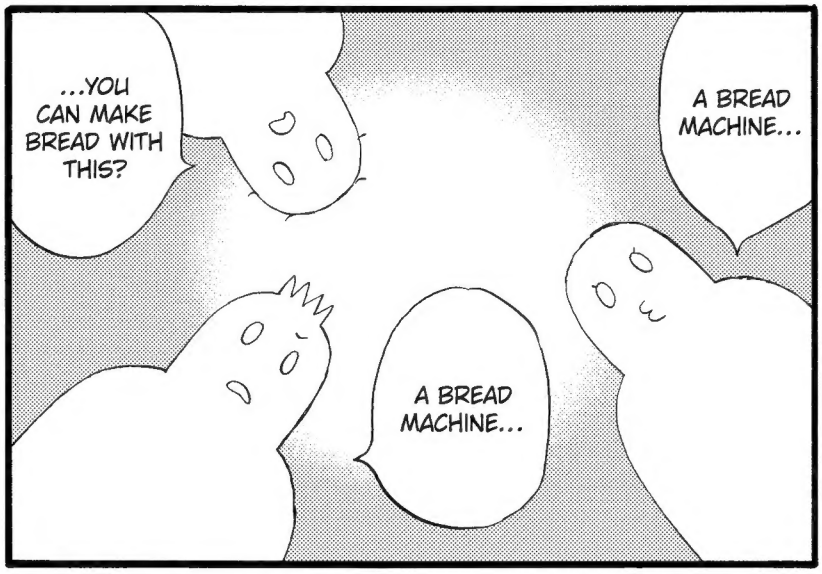
OH, RIGHT... YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT IT IS IF IT BELONGED TO YOUR MOTHER.

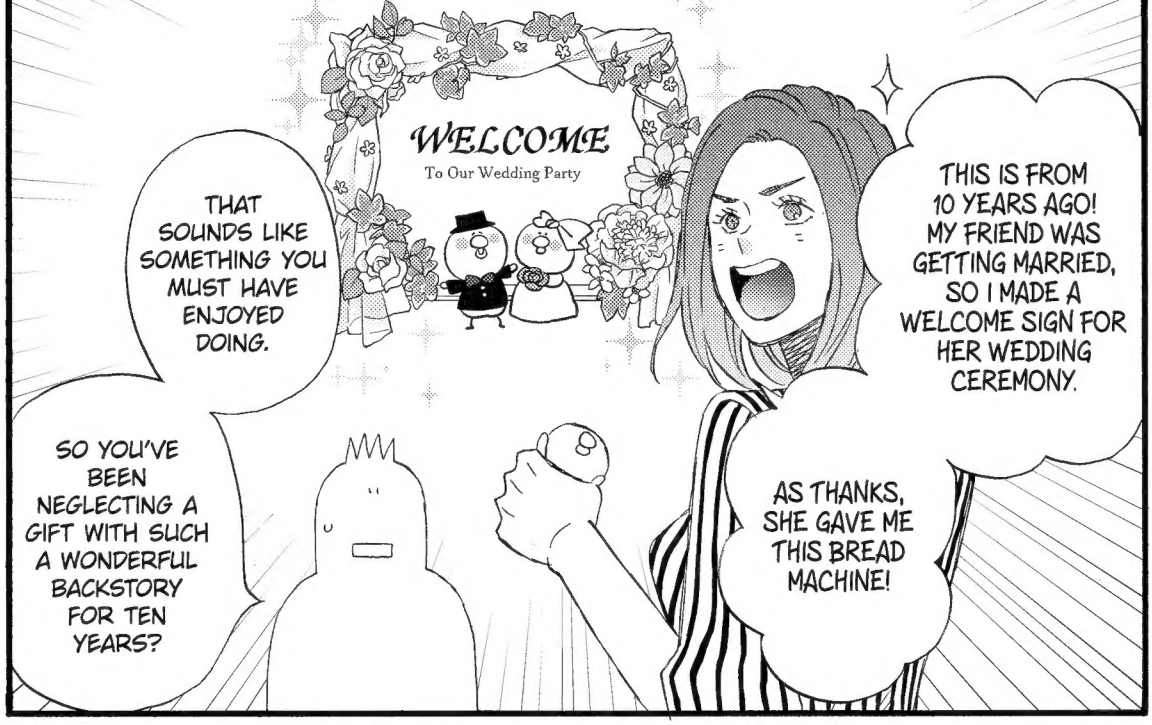

IT COULD'VE BEEN A GIFT FOR MY MOTHER.
IT DOES. I WON'T KNOW UNLESS I OPEN IT, THOUGH.
IT LOOKS LIKE A GIFT, DOESN'T IT?
Thunk

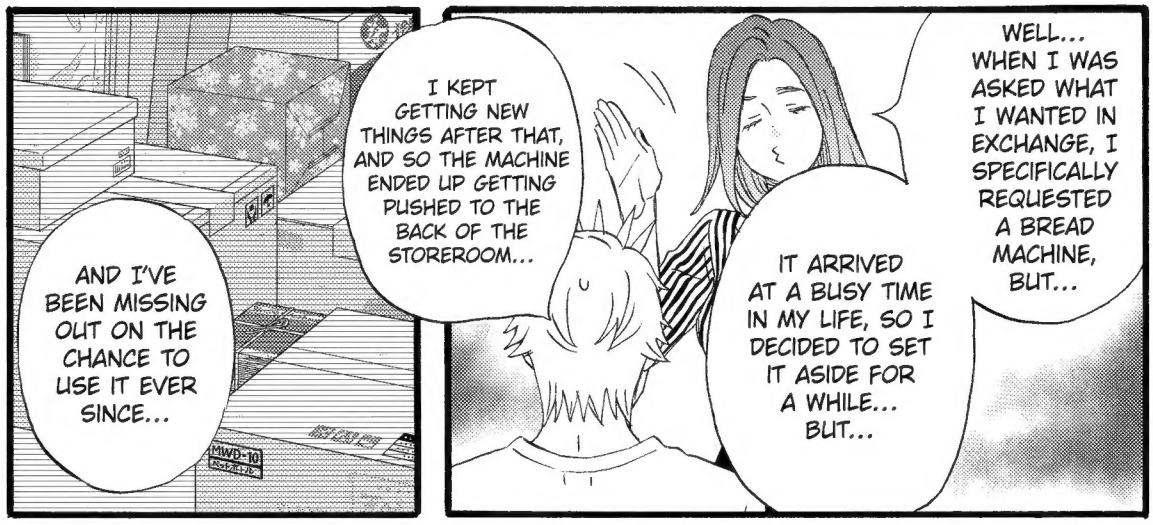

Bread Machine
Bread Machine
Fluffy Bread

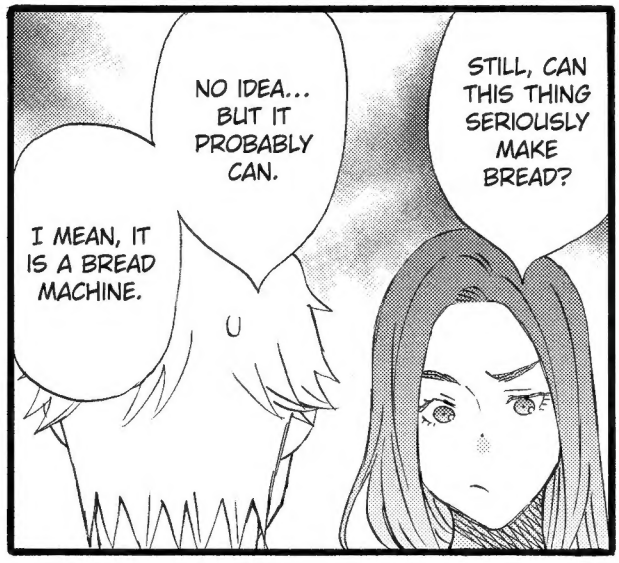
I'll open it.
WELP, ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

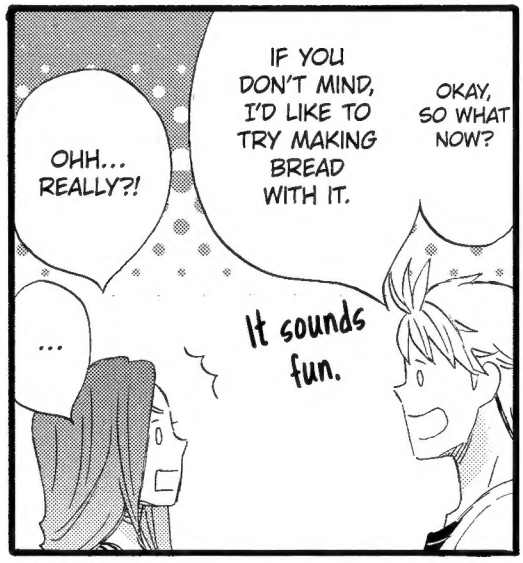

OH, I JUST REMEM-BERED.

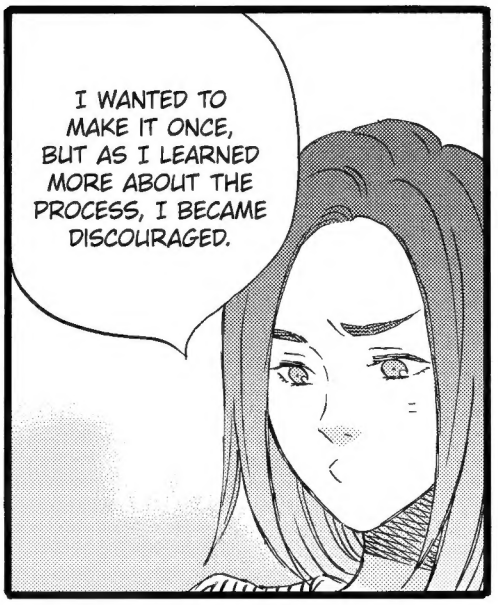

...YOU CAN MAKE BREAD WITH THIS?
A BREAD MACHINE...
A BREAD MACHINE...

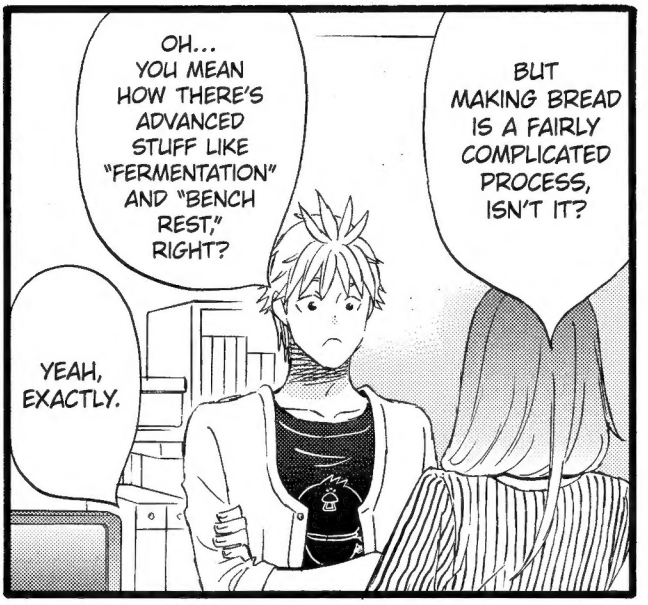

WELCOME
To Our Wedding Party
THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU MUST HAVE ENJOYED DOING.
THIS IS FROM 10 YEARS AGO! MY FRIEND WAS GETTING MARRIED, SO I MADE A WELCOME SIGN FOR HER WEDDING CEREMONY.
SO YOU'VE BEEN NEGLECTING A GIFT WITH SUCH A WONDERFUL BACKSTORY FOR TEN YEARS?
AS THANKS, SHE GAVE ME THIS BREAD MACHINE!

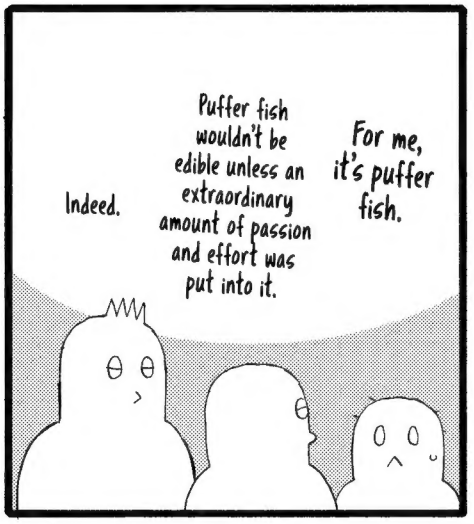

AND I'VE BEEN MISSING OUT ON THE CHANCE TO USE IT EVER SINCE...
MWD-10
I KEPT GETTING NEW THINGS AFTER THAT, AND SO THE MACHINE ENDED UP GETTING PUSHED TO THE BACK OF THE STOREROOM...
IT ARRIVED AT A BUSY TIME IN MY LIFE, SO I DECIDED TO SET IT ASIDE FOR A WHILE... BUT...
WELL... WHEN I WAS ASKED WHAT I WANTED IN EXCHANGE, I SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED A BREAD MACHINE, BUT...

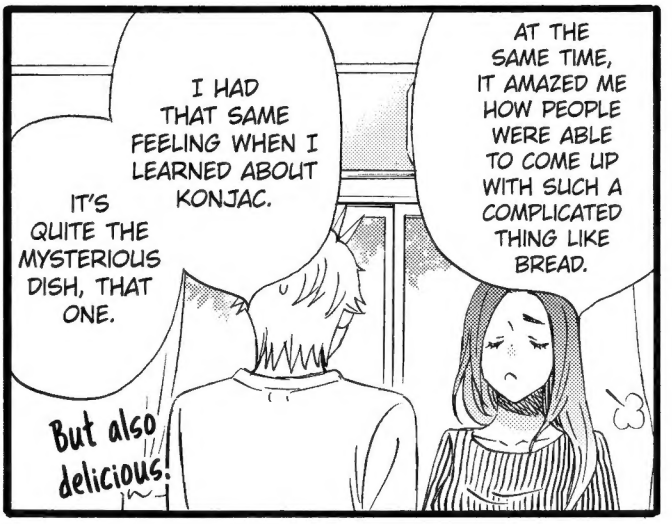

I MEAN, IT IS A BREAD MACHINE.
NO IDEA... BUT IT PROBABLY CAN.
STILL, CAN THIS THING SERIOUSLY MAKE BREAD?


...
OHH... REALLY?!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO TRY MAKING BREAD WITH IT.
OKAY, SO WHAT NOW?
It sounds fun.

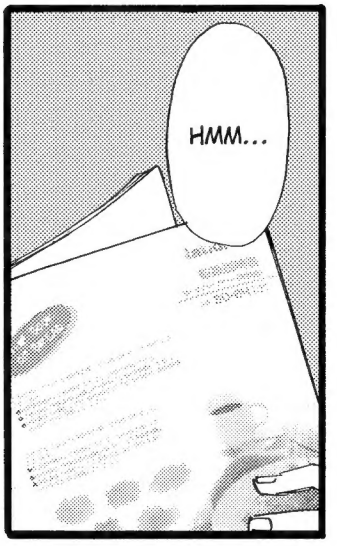

I WANTED TO MAKE IT ONCE, BUT AS I LEARNED MORE ABOUT THE PROCESS, I BECAME DISCOURAGED.


OH... YOU MEAN HOW THERE'S ADVANCED STUFF LIKE "FERMENTATION" AND "BENCH REST," RIGHT?
BUT MAKING BREAD IS A FAIRLY COMPLICATED PROCESS, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, EXACTLY.


For me, it's puffer fish.
Puffer fish wouldn't be edible unless an extraordinary amount of passion and effort was put into it.
Indeed.

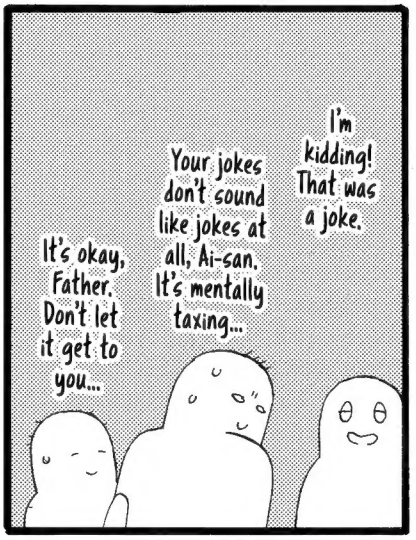

AT THE SAME TIME, IT AMAZED ME HOW PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO COME UP WITH SUCH A COMPLICATED THING LIKE BREAD.
I HAD THAT SAME FEELING WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT KONJAC.
IT'S QUITE THE MYSTERIOUS DISH, THAT ONE.
But also delicious!

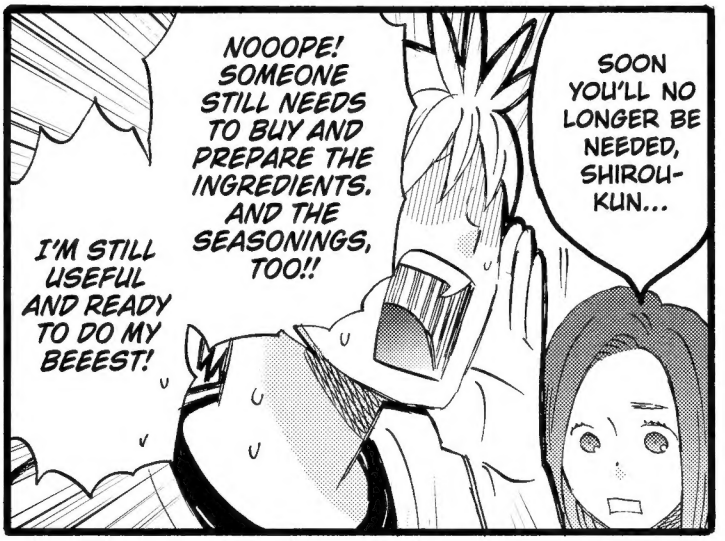
IT LOOKS PRETTY SIMPLE.
WE NEED BREAD FLOUR, DRY YEAST, WATER, AND SKIM MILK...
WE THEN ADD SALT, SUGAR, AND BUTTER, AND TURN THE MACHINE ON.


HMM...

IN FACT, ONE OF MY HOUSEWIFE FRIENDS JUST BOUGHT ONE OF THOSE AND WAS RAVING ABOUT IT TO ME.
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS CHOP THE INGREDIENTS AND THROW IN THE SEASONINGS.
IT'S CRAZY, RIGHT? THESE DAYS, SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES CAN COOK A VARIETY OF DISHES AUTOMATICALLY.
I SEE...

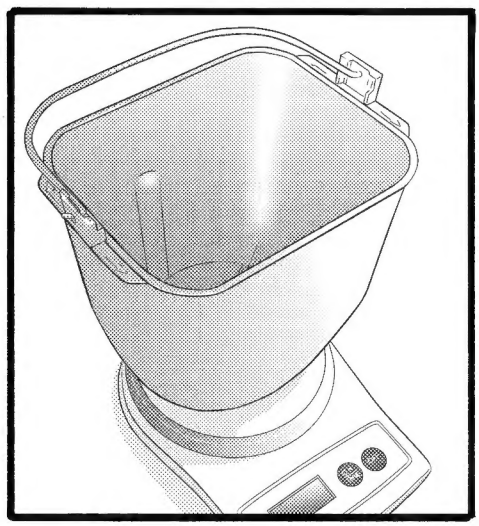
...DON'T WE NEED TO OPEN THE LID HALFWAY THROUGH AND DO SOMETHING?
NOPE.
SERIOUSLY? SO THE PROCESS IS FULLY AUTOMATED...

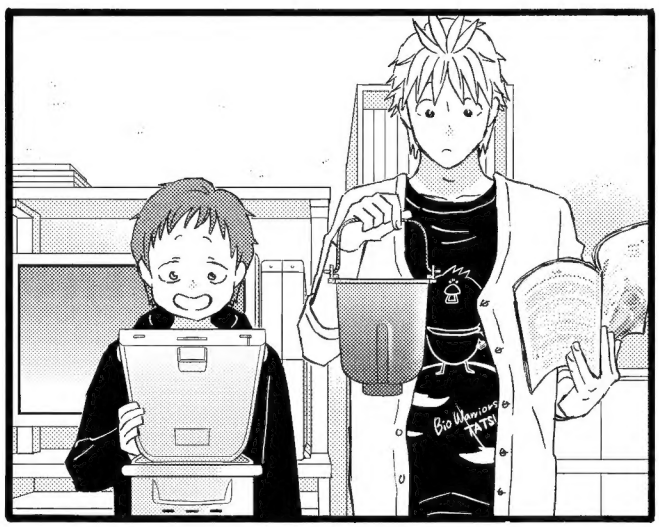

It's okay, Father. Don't let it get to you...
Your jokes don't sound like jokes at all, Ai-san. It's mentally taxing...
I'm kidding! That was a joke.

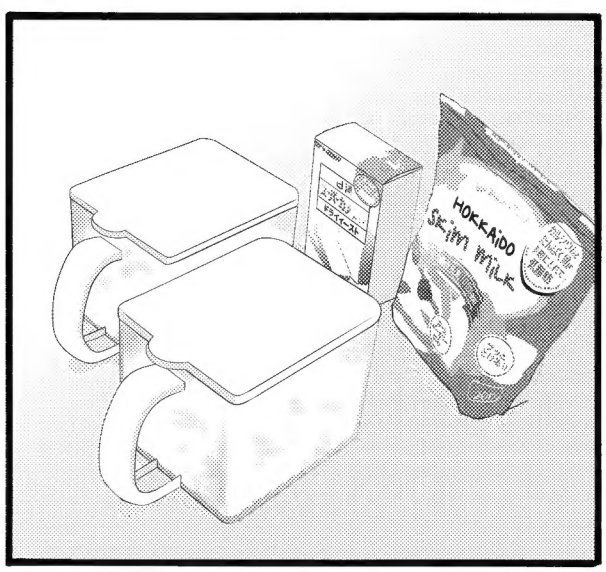

SOON YOU'LL NO LONGER BE NEEDED, SHIROU-KUN...
NOOOPE! SOMEONE STILL NEEDS TO BUY AND PREPARE THE INGREDIENTS. AND THE SEASONINGS, TOO!!
I'M STILL USEFUL AND READY TO DO MY BEEEST!

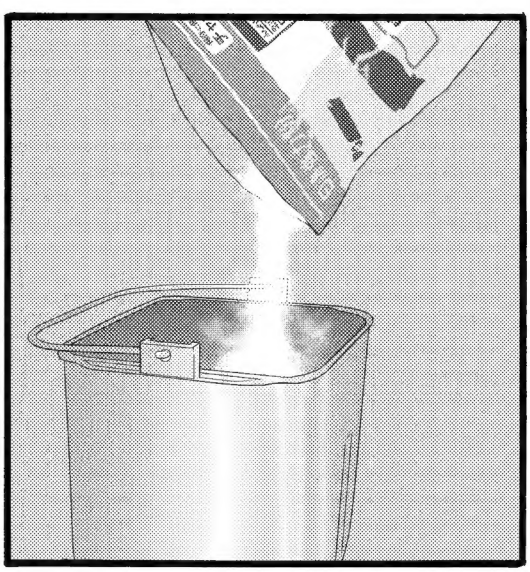
ANYWAY, WE SHOULD START WITH A SIMPLE LOAF OF BREAD...!

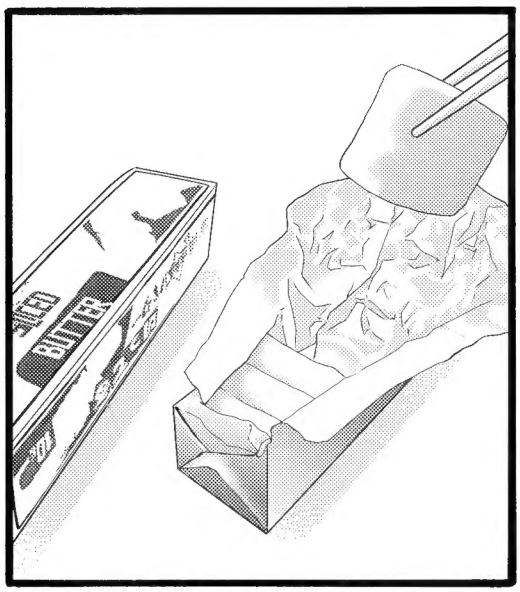
But first, let's go shopping!
Let's have beef stew for dinner with the bread.
Okaaay!

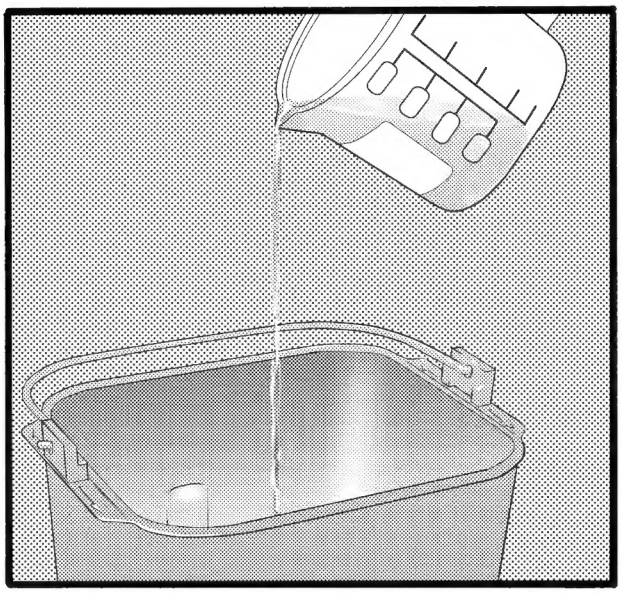


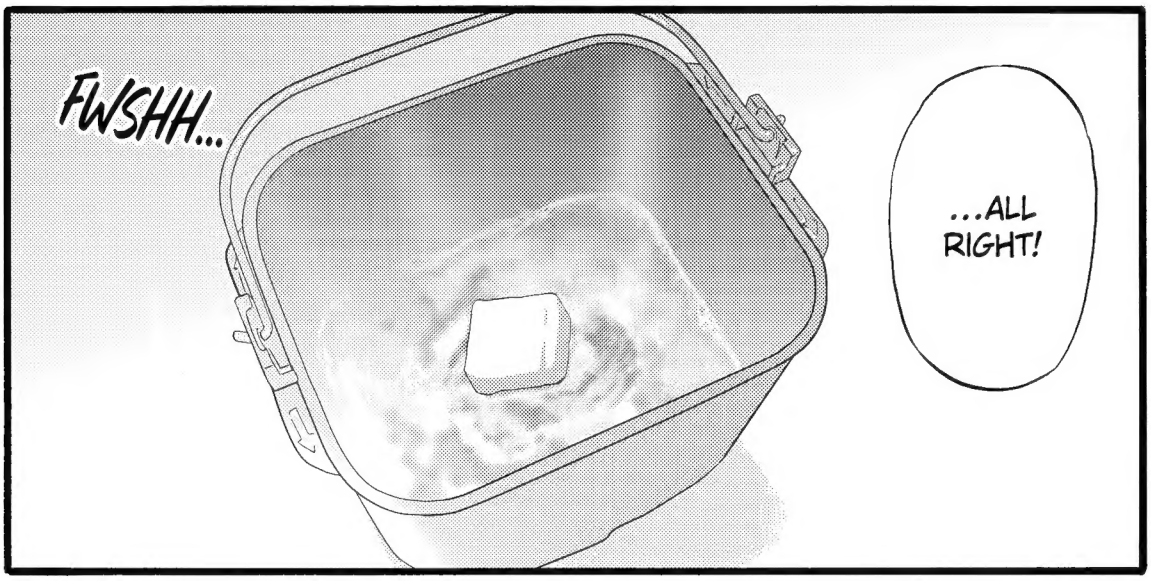



HOKKAIDO
SKIM MILK



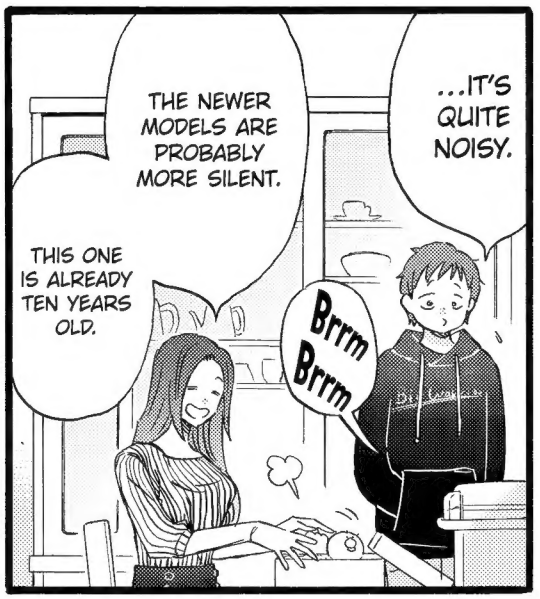

BUTTER




FWSHH...
...ALL RIGHT!

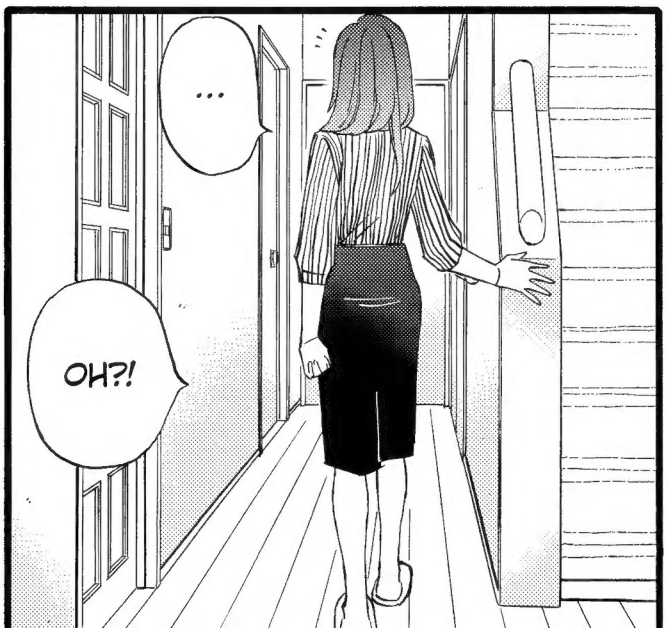
Beep
COOLING
TIMER
CANCEL

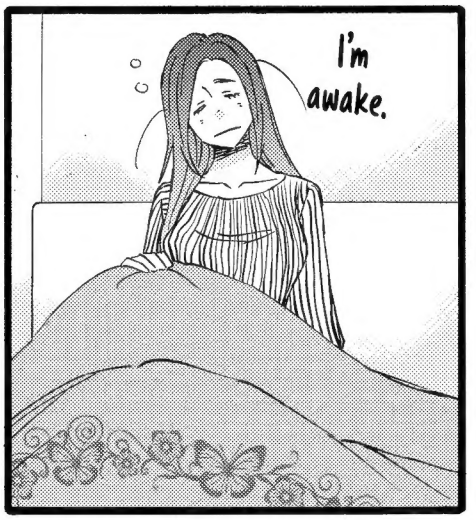
IT'S GOING TO TURN OUT DECENTLY... I THINK?
...IS THIS REALLY GOING TO BECOME BREAD...?
The water's bubbling.
WE FOLLOWED THE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LETTER...


THE NEWER MODELS ARE PROBABLY MORE SILENT.
...IT'S QUITE NOISY.
THIS ONE IS ALREADY TEN YEARS OLD.
Brrm Brrm

WHOA... IT'S THE FIRST TIME I SEE A BREAD MACHINE IN ACTION...
IT'S WORKING!
IT'S KINDA EXCITING...
Brrrm
Brrrm

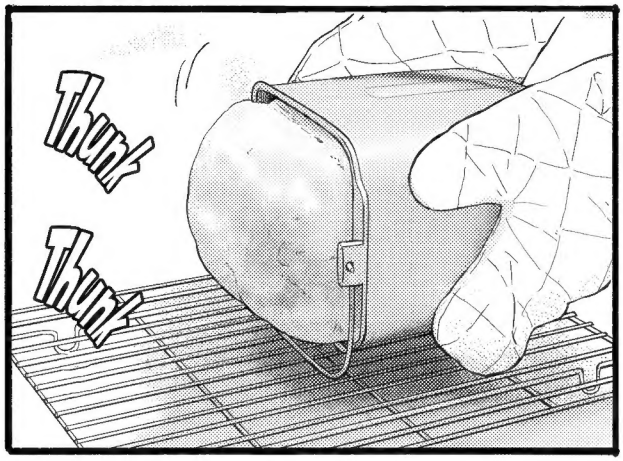
I'M GOING TO TAKE A NAP...
WE CAN PROBABLY LEAVE THE MACHINE RUNNING OVERNIGHT SO THAT THE BREAD IS READY FOR BREAKFAST THE NEXT MORNING.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE CAN EVEN SET A TIMER FOR UP TO EIGHT HOURS.
IT TAKES FOUR HOURS TO COMPLETE, SO LET'S FINISH THE REST OF THE COOKING AND CLEAN UP IN THE MEANTIME.
THAT'S NICE!
Chatter
Chatter

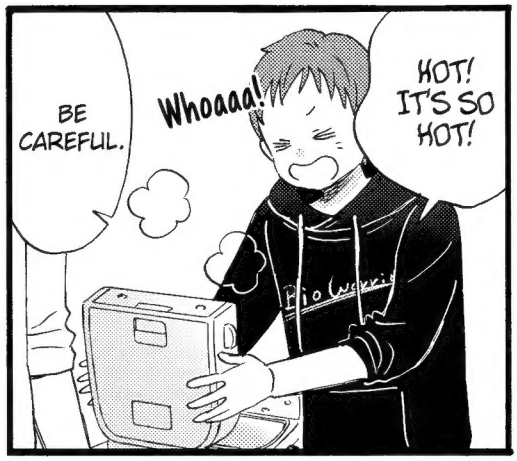

...
OH?!

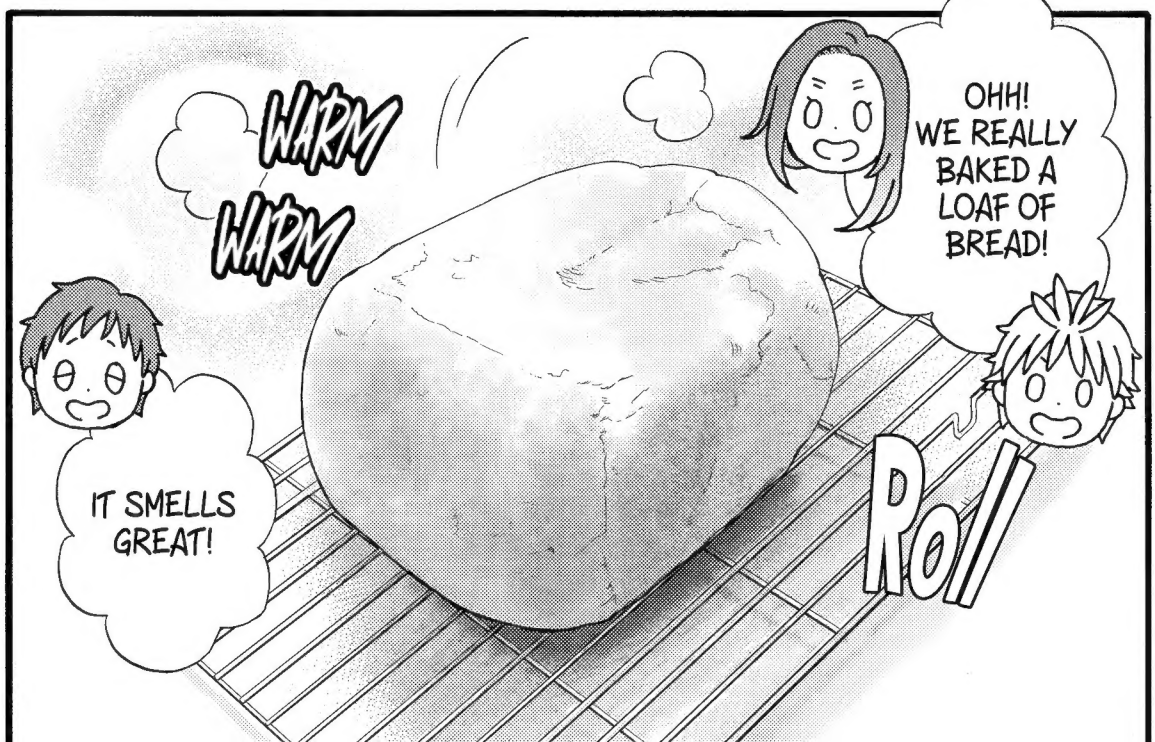

I'm awake.

IT FINISHED BAKING...!
Beeep
Beeep
MENU
RAISIN
COLOR
MODE
TIMER
CLOCK
START
CANCEL

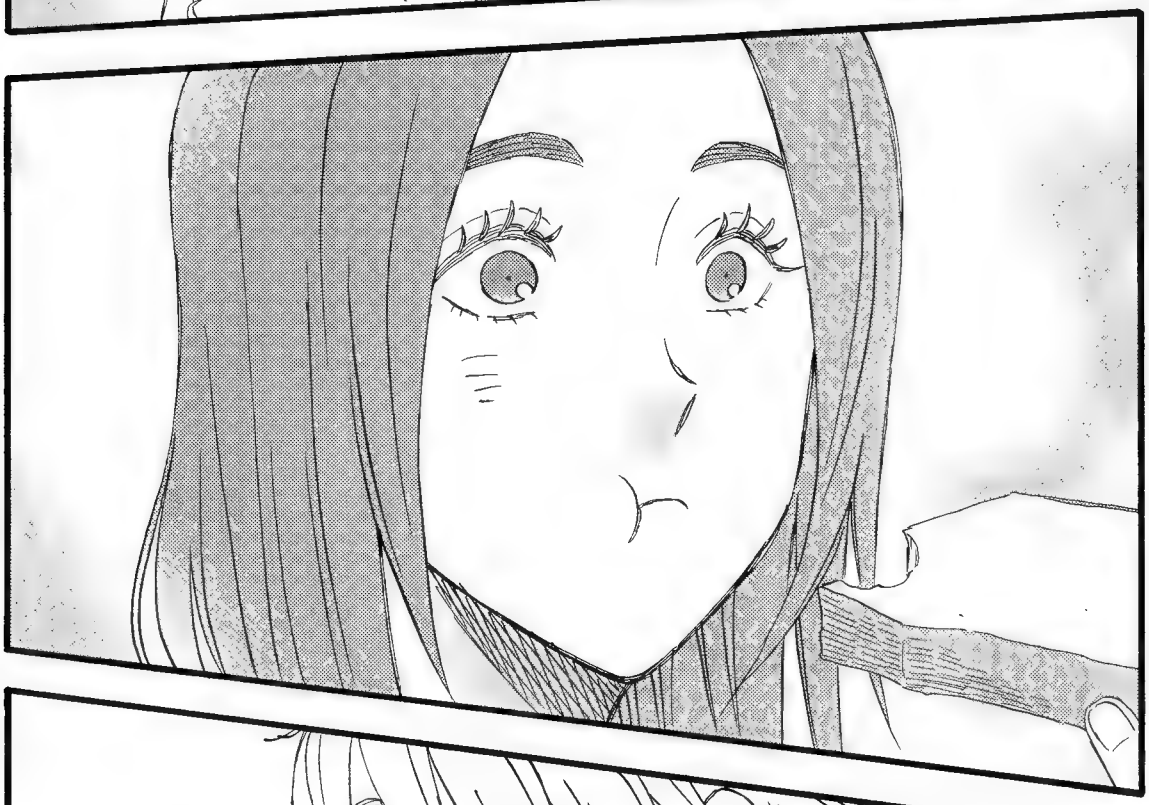
Sniff Sniff
OHHH ...!
IT SMELLS LIKE BREAD OVER HERE...!
RIGHT...? IT'S THE SCENT OF THE YEAST, MAYBE?

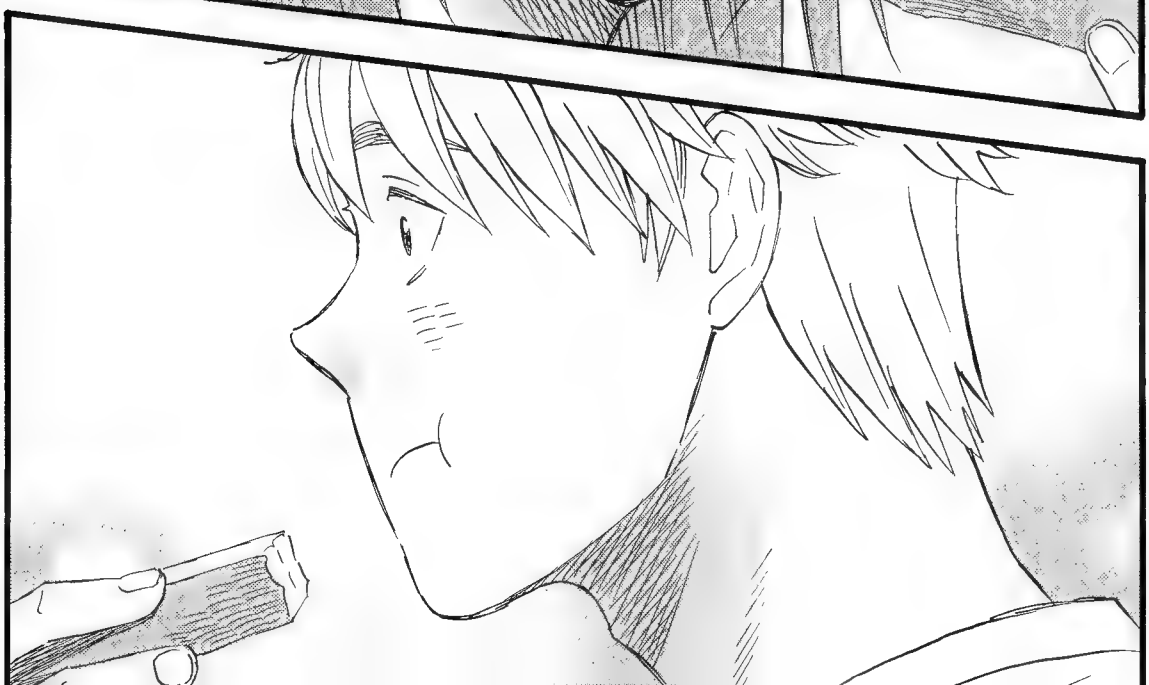

Thunk
Thunk


BE CAREFUL.
Whoaaa!
HOT! IT'S SO HOT!


WARM
WARM
OHH! WE REALLY BAKED A LOAF OF BREAD!
IT SMELLS GREAT!
Roll

LET'S DIG IN!

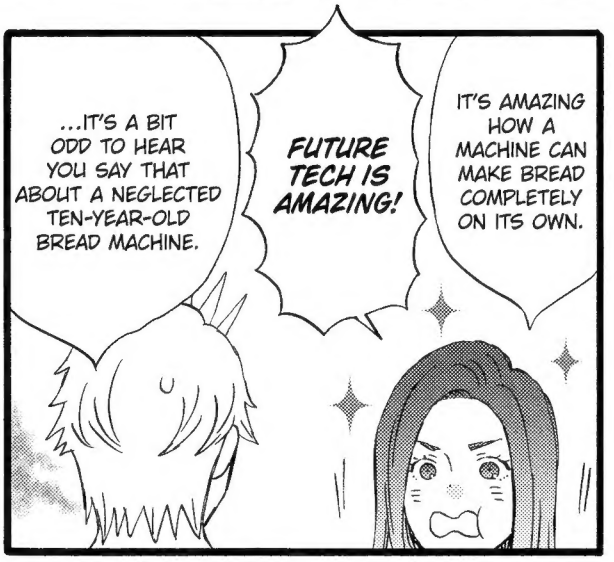




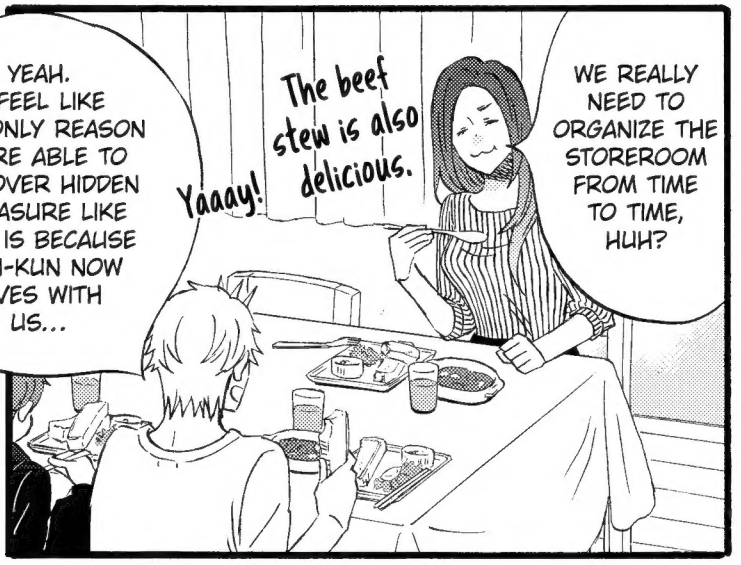
IT'S YUMMY!

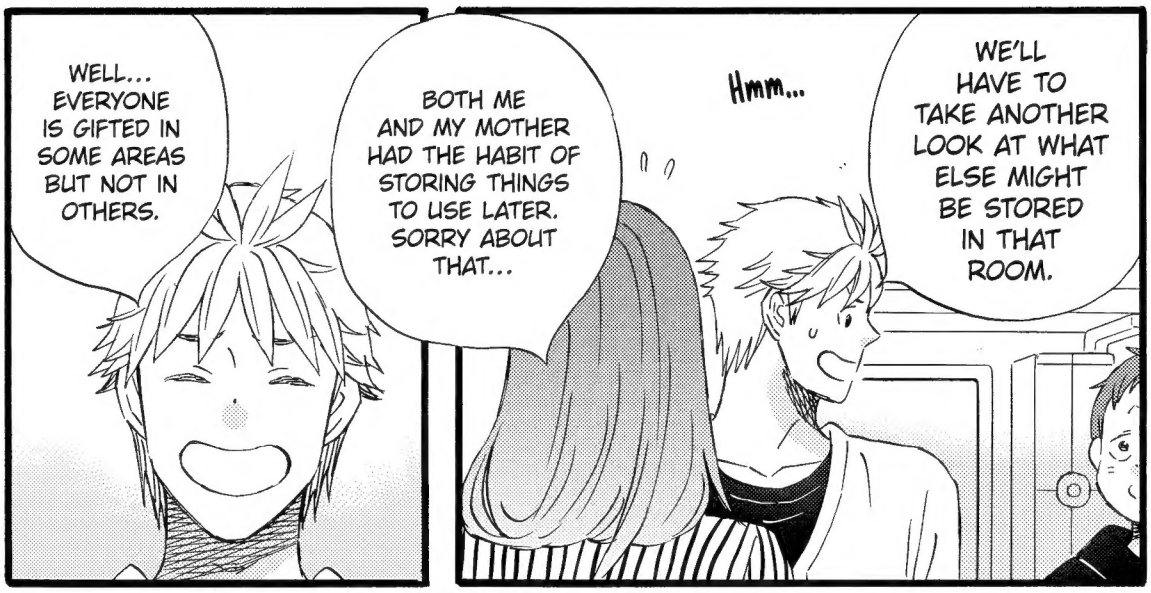
IT'S PRETTY NICE TO BE ABLE TO EAT FRESHLY BAKED BREAD.
AMAZING! IT TASTES DELICIOUS, JUST LIKE THE REAL DEAL!
NUNGH
NUNGH
NUNGH
NUNGH

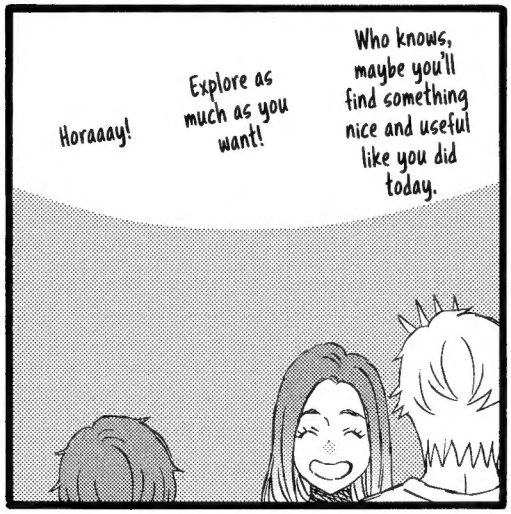
LIKE THE ONE MY HOUSEWIFE FRIEND BOUGHT, RIGHT? I'LL HAVE TO ASK HER FOR MORE DETAILS. WHAT RECIPES SHE CAN MAKE WITH IT, AND SO ON.
I'M ALSO CURIOUS ABOUT THOSE SMALL KITCHEN APPLIANCES YOU MENTIONED, FATHER.

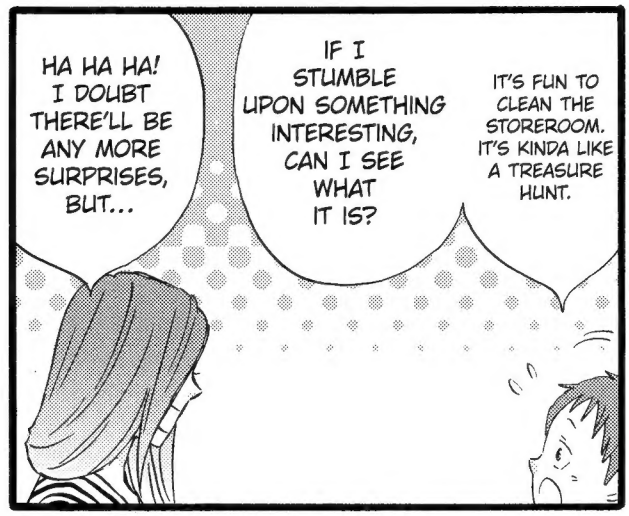

...IT'S A BIT ODD TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT ABOUT A NEGLECTED TEN-YEAR-OLD BREAD MACHINE.
FUTURE TECH IS AMAZING!
IT'S AMAZING HOW A MACHINE CAN MAKE BREAD COMPLETELY ON ITS OWN.

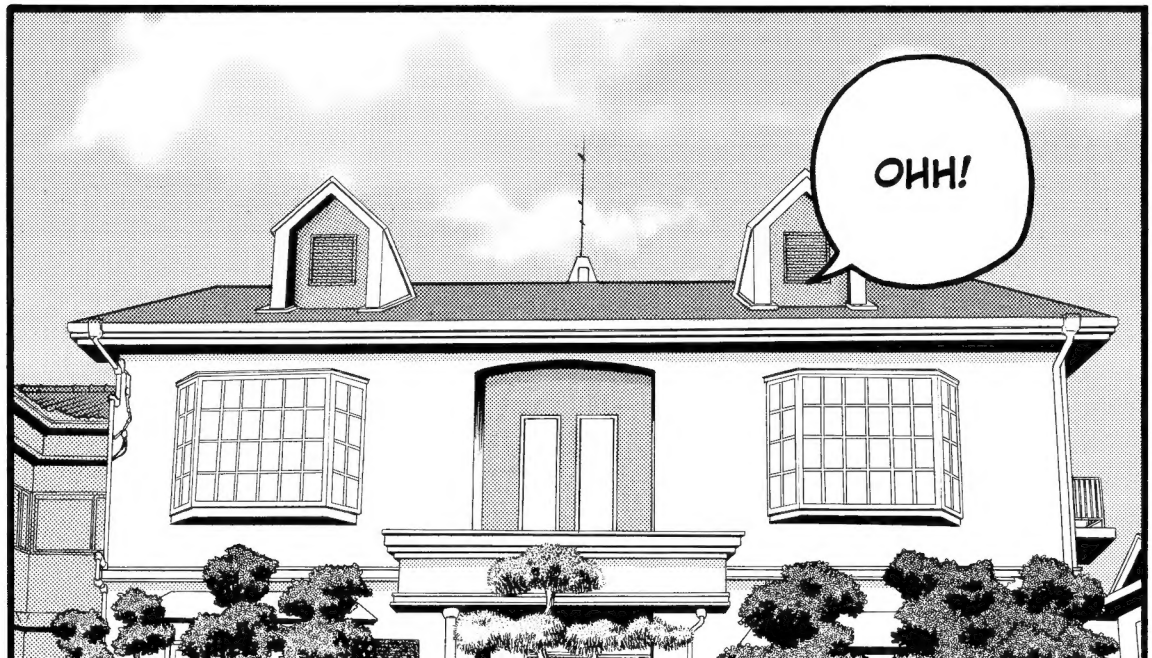
HEH HEH HEH!


YEAH. I FEEL LIKE THE ONLY REASON WE'RE ABLE TO DISCOVER HIDDEN TREASURE LIKE THIS IS BECAUSE JUN-KUN NOW LIVES WITH US...
Yaaay!
The beef stew is also delicious.
WE REALLY NEED TO ORGANIZE THE STOREROOM FROM TIME TO TIME, HUH?


WELL... EVERYONE IS GIFTED IN SOME AREAS BUT NOT IN OTHERS.
BOTH ME AND MY MOTHER HAD THE HABIT OF STORING THINGS TO USE LATER. SORRY ABOUT THAT...
Hmm...
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT WHAT ELSE MIGHT BE STORED IN THAT ROOM.

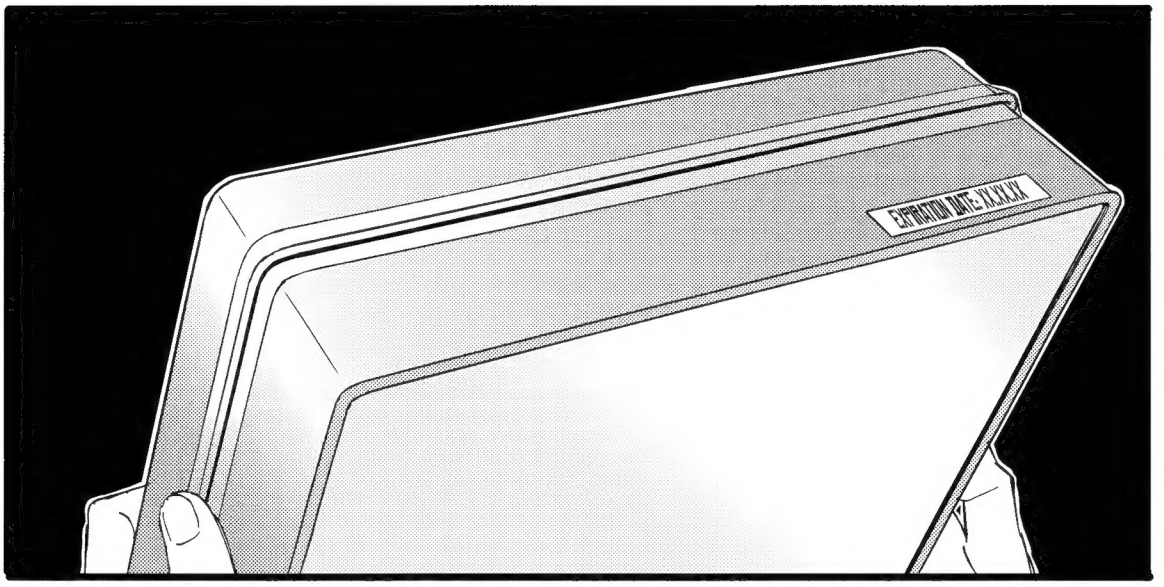

Horaaay!
Explore as much as you want!
Who knows, maybe you'll find something nice and useful like you did today.

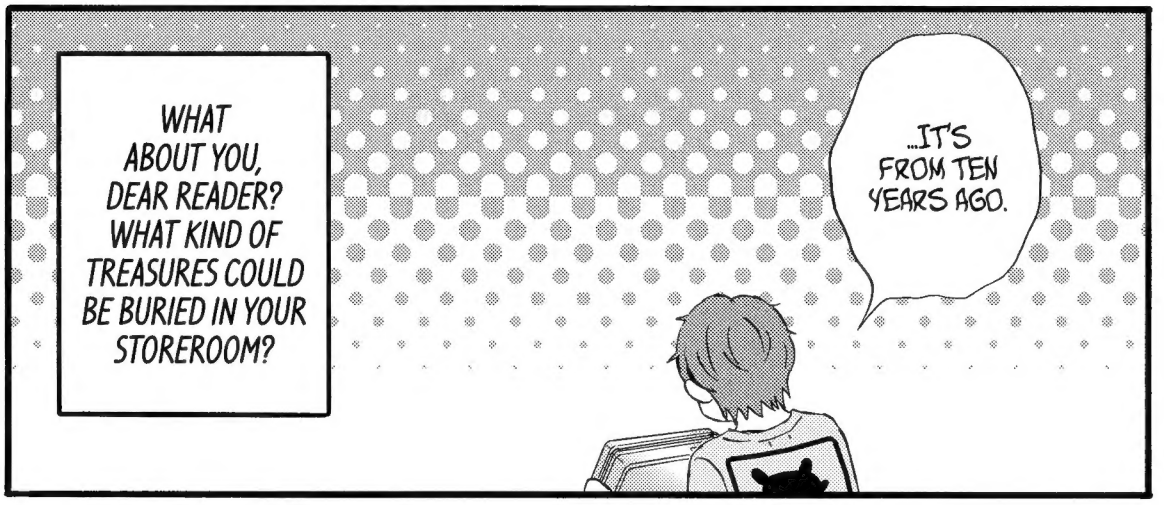

HA HA HA! I DOUBT THERE'LL BE ANY MORE SURPRISES, BUT...
IF I STUMBLE UPON SOMETHING INTERESTING, CAN I SEE WHAT IT IS?
IT'S FUN TO CLEAN THE STOREROOM. IT'S KINDA LIKE A TREASURE HUNT.


OHH!

OHH...! IT'S A BOX OF COOKIES. IT LOOKS EXPENSIVE!
Sparkle Sparkle

"EXPLORE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!"
SUCH BEAUTIFUL WRAPPING PAPER. WHAT IS THIS?!
I'LL GO AHEAD AND OPEN IT!
RIDE UPAGI?


EXPIRATION DATE: X.X.X.X.X.


WHAT ABOUT YOU, DEAR READER? WHAT KIND OF TREASURES COULD BE BURIED IN YOUR STOREROOM?
...IT'S FROM TEN YEARS AGO.